

August 7, 2022

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message: "Love One Another"

—Being Born Again—

Text 1 John 3:8~12

3:8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

3:9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.

3:10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

3:11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

3:12 We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.

Introduction

Good morning, everyone!

We studied that **our faith** and **the way we live our lives** should be one and the same (the theme of the last message).

The souls of those who trust in Jesus as Christ (the Savior) are saved by grace. However, we also have physical bodies that have the nature of sin. We have struggles there.

Then, what should we do? How can we become the winner in faith and in our daily lives? The Bible teaches that it is important to take the yoke of Jesus Christ and follow Him, who is the perfect One.

Jesus said,

Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Let us study further about **faith** and **our walk of lives** today.

John the author teaches about faith, life and struggles.

Let us study the following two points today.

Main Points

1. People Revel Themselves Through Their Lives

1) He who commits sin

3:8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

Whoever makes a practice of sinning means a person who walks in sin. John said that he is of the devil. He uses harsh words. It means human's attitude by nature.

Let consider the sin that the Bible teaches of. Generally, when we hear the word sin, we think about someone committing a crime. Of course, that is a sin. However, the Bible teaches that sin means **hamartia** (missing the target). People who **miss the target**, have the evil thoughts, and go toward the evil direction. For example, the Bible calls stealing things a transgression.

Human beings, who were created by God the Creator, should have walked with Him but strayed away from the target (missed the target, sin). It is our true nature.

The Bible records as below,

Romans 3:10 as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one;

3:11 no one understands; no one seeks for God.

3:12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;

no one does good, not even one."

The Bible asserted that no one is righteous in the world. Human beings have sin by nature. Such human beings construct societies. Therefore, evil keeps controlling the world.

However, John said as below,

3:8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

The verse above records a connection with sin and Satan. Satan once had followed God but turned away and rebelled from Him. Then he tempted human beings. The Bible says that Satan has been sinning from the beginning.

2) Salvation from sin

Jesus Christ came to this world to break the power of the Satan and defeat him. Jesus was crucified and crushed the head of Satan.

Whoever trusts in Jesus defeats Satan.

3:9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.

Whoever believes in Jesus becomes a child of God and he is a new creation.

Evangelist Paul says as below,

2 Corinthians 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

He is freed from sins. How blessed he is!

On top of that, God's seed abides in him. The God's seed means the word of God.

1 Peter 1:23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;

Therefore, he **cannot keep on sinning**. Yes, as he was born again, he cannot walk in sin.

John records in 1 John, Chapter 5 as below,

1 John 5:18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

3:10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

My friends, we are given the nature of God by His grace and how can we return to our old life?

Romans, Chapter 6 records as below,

Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?

6: 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

My friends, the verse above tells us that **our daily lives** reveal whether we are real children of God or not. **Our ordinary lives** such as in our homes, workplaces, and schools show if we are children of God.

2. Let Us Live in Brotherly Love

3:11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

This important message has been taught from the beginning since they believed in Jesus Christ. If they do not love one another, they are not called the righteous. They are not of God.

John used the example of Cain who appears in Genesis, Chapter 4 as below,

Genesis 4:1 1Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD."

4:2 And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground.

4:3 In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground,

4:4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions.

And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering,

4:5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.

4:6 The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?

4:7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.”

4:8 Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

The fundamental reason why Cain killed Abel his brother was that he was not of God but **of the evil**. Cain killed Abel because his brother practiced righteous. He killed him because of **jealousy**. Cain was controlled by the sin of **jealousy**.

Now, there one point about the story that we hardly understand. Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. What is the difference between Cain’s offering and Abel’s?

God created the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it.

Genesis 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

Adam must have cultivated a field. Therefore, engaging agriculture is not denied. The law that was given later ordered to offer farm products.

We understand here that an offering itself was not a problem, but the problem was he who offered the offering. The Lord looked the person who offered and judged to accept it or not. It means He looked at the way of life of he who offered.

John said,

3:12 We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother’s righteous.

John also said, **“Because his own deeds were evil and his brother’s righteous.”** God looked **the way of life** of person who offered. God looks into our inward selves. We have **jealousy** in us who have flesh by nature.

God gave **amazing love** to us who have the nature of the flesh. It is Jesus Christ. We are changed into a new being; we are no longer the old one. The reality of being born again changes our lives.

It is the righteous life that only those who are of God can accomplish.

{Illustration}

In the days of the early church, Emperor Trajan (98~117), one of 5 Roman Emperors, ruled. The last part of the New Testament was probably written in this period. It was the days of the early church.

Plinius, a provincial governor of Asia Minor sent the following report to Emperor Trajan.

“Imperial Majesty! I sent my servants who were disguised as Christians to sneak into the church. They were baptized and checked every action of the Christians. According to their report, they praise Jesus Christ every time they meet together day and night. They often share bread and drink wine with joy.

On top of that, it is incomprehensible that they pray to God for persecutors. Imperial Majesty! They pray for Emperor and Roman officers. The most outstanding thing is that they love one another.”

My dear friends, Christians looked like this to the spies. This was the way of life of Christians in the days of the early church. How about us? Those who have the flesh by nature were saved by the grace of Jesus Christ. It proves that we are loved by God.

God loves us, therefore John encourages us **to love one another**. How thankful! I cannot thank God enough.

Conclusion

Title of the Message: “Love One Another”

—Being Born Again—

The Lord spoke to us this morning. John encouraged the saints in the days of the early church to love one another. It is the way of life of those who are loved by God.

Let us love one another as we are loved by the Lord.

Let us conclude the message by reading the following Scripture.

3:11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

* God bless you!